

Tatum Bros. Lumber Co., Inc.

P.O. DRAWER A LAWTEY, FLORIDA 32058-0701
(904) 782-3690 FAX (904) 782-1448

January 7, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft, Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001


Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

The lawsuit that was filed against Microsoft was, quite frankly, crazy. It never should have happened in the first place, and I am so glad that it was finally resolved just last November. The Justice Department does not need to waste time and resources, which the taxpayers have to foot the bill for, any further on this pursuit. There is a resolution and it is a resolution that addresses all of the key issues and even ones not mentioned in the original lawsuit.

This agreement stipulates that Microsoft cannot retaliate against any computer company that promotes or distributes non-Microsoft software, which helps to increase competition. It also provides a uniform pricing list for companies that would enter into licensing contracts with Microsoft, which provides economic protection from smaller computer manufacturers. The Microsoft settlement even goes so far as to require Microsoft to provide interface data to its competitors, which is a first in antitrust settlements. This is a settlement that addresses all of the issues at stake here and more.

Therefore, it is time that the litigation is stopped. As I said, this entire lawsuit was crazy to start with. Well, it's time the craziness ended. I urge you to make no further changes. Microsoft has been penalized. I hope you will do what is good for the economy. The buck stops with you.

Sincerely,



Linda Tatum